REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 and 16 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 17-19 are new.

Support for each new and amended claim is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the specification.

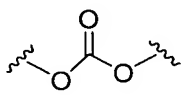
No new matter is believed to have been added.

Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness rejection of Claims 9-16 as being unpatentable in view of Pressman in combination with Chalk because the references do not describe or suggest all of the elements of the present claims, and on the basis of superior and unexpected results.

At the outset, present Claim 9 has, as a feature that the reaction solvent is a compound having a carbonate bond, "wherein the compound having a carbonate bond is selected from the group consisting of propylene carbonate, ethylene carbonate, and mixtures thereof." Applicants submit this feature is not described or suggested by Pressman and/or Chalk.

Applicants note that the Office, at page 4 of the Official Action, has described that Chalk at column 4, line 25, and Claim 14, describes the use of a reaction solvent having a carbonate bond. Applicants submit this characterization of Chalk by the Office is incorrect.

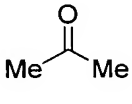
Chalk, at claim 14, does not describe or suggest a solvent having a carbonate bond. Additionally, Chalk at column 4, line 25, describes "methyl formate, iodobenzene, acetone, acetopheneone..." Applicants note that a carbonate has the following structure:

 (carbonate).

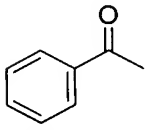
In contrast, the structures of methyl formate, iodobenzene, acetone, and acetophenone are:

(methyl formate)

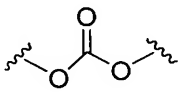
(iodo benzene)



(acetone)



(acetophenone), and none of these are a carbonate:



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Accordingly, Chalk does not describe or suggest the feature of present Claim 9, that the solvent is a compound having a carbonate bond "wherein the compound having a carbonate bond is selected from the group consisting of propylene carbonate, ethylene carbonate, and mixtures thereof."

Further, Pressman does not describe or suggest the use of ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, or mixtures thereof as reaction solvents.

Accordingly, Pressman and Chalk do not describe or suggest all of the features of present Claim 9, and the claims depending therefrom. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is requested on this basis alone.

Applicants further traverse the obviousness rejection on the basis of superior and unexpected results. Applicants have submitted, along with this paper, a 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 declaration.

Pressman, while not describing or suggesting a solvent selected from ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, and mixtures thereof, as found in present Claim 9 and the claims depending therefrom, does describe at page 3, lines 22-23, using as a diluent diaryl carbonates, with ..."diphenyl carbonate being the most preferred."

In Table 1, Example 9, page 35 of the originally filed specification (of the claims), propylene carbonate was used as the solvent to make a polycarbonate from bisphenol A and carbon monoxide. In the declaration, for Declaration Example 1 (of the claims), the same protocol as Example 9 was employed, except that ethylene carbonate was substituted for propylene carbonate. In Declaration Example 2 (not of the claims), the same protocol as Example 9 was employed, except that diphenyl carbonate was employed in place of propylene carbonate. The results from these three examples are present in the following table:

No.	Solvent	Yield (%)	Mn	Mw
Example 9	Propylene Carbonate	44	2630	3590
Declaration Example 1	Ethylene Carbonate	20	2000	3400
Declaration Example 2	Diphenyl Carbonate	6	800	1000

Mw = weight average molecular weight

Mn = number average molecular weight

As shown in the table, using either propylene carbonate or ethylene carbonate results in significantly higher yields than diphenyl carbonate, and also results in desirable higher molecular weight polycarbonates. Based on the disclosures of Pressman and Chalk, these superior results were unexpected. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is requested.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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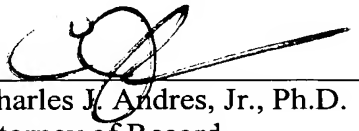
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



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